New marketing strategies of oil refineries

925. SHRI VIJAY J. DARDA: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that the European countries are closing down their refineries due to rising environmental concerns coupled with high refining costs;

(b) if so, whether the Indian refineries, both in public and private sector, would be encouraged to take advantage of this opportunity for marketing our petrol, diesel and other petroleum products to European and other countries where export potential exists; and

(c) whether Government are making concerted efforts to capture these markets as the demand in our neighbouring countries as also in the middle-east, China, Africa, etc. is rising?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI MANI SHANKAR AIYAR): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) India is already a net exporter of petroleum products. Further, in view of India's export earnings of over Rs. 28,000 crore from petroleum products in 2004-05, Indian Oil Corporation Limited have been asked to prepare a detailed feasibility study on making India as an investment destination for refineries, in particular export-oriented refineries, with the main aim of exporting petroleum products. We are also attempting through diplomatic channels and meetings of Ministers to ascertain whether Indian refining companies could set up a production base in the European Union, for example, Romania which is expected to join the European Union by January, 2007.

Price Structure of Petrol and Diesel

926. SHRI PRASANTA CHATTERJEE: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) what was the price structure of petrol and diesel before last price hike (Basic price and tax components); and

(b) what is the present price structure of petrol and diesel (Basic price and tax components)?